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anxiety. But when the naval and imperial aspirations of William II. were made clear, England began to reconsider her situation. But from this awakening of distrust or suspicion of Germany to a *rapprochement* of France and England was a long and painful journey. Friction had long existed between the two countries and when the policy of Hanotaux conducted France to the verge of war by conducting her to Fashoda, matters reached a climax. How to extract an *entente cordiale* from that lamentable crisis, with its danger and its humiliation, was a problem similar in difficulty to that of extracting sunshine from the cucumber.

The process, however, had already been begun. In 1895 the Lord Mayor of London had been invited to visit the international exposition at Bordeaux and shortly afterward there was founded in London an "association for the development of more cordial relations between the United Kingdom and France". It was "to use its influence to develop a better knowledge and higher appreciation of the French nation in England, as also of the English nation in France, by the organization of public meetings, lectures and the circulation of literature", etc., and to "ensure a more accurate knowledge of the respective feelings and opinions of the two nations in all questions affecting their common interests". Thus began the process of mutual education which is at the basis of the present union of the two nations, so long suspicious or estranged.

This book is written by a Frenchman who was a partizan of this movement from the start. On November 13, 1896, Mr. Lanessan advocated in the *XIX^e Siècle* the possibility of an understanding between France, Russia, and England. He regarded the Entente of France and England as the corollary of the Franco-Russian alliance. In 1897 he was one of those who founded in France an association similar to that just founded in England. Mr. Lanessan became president of the organization effected at that time and which began to operate through the chambers of commerce. An independent movement with the same end in view had already been started by Mr. (now Sir) Thomas Barclay. The problems and difficulties encountered in the development of the understanding of the two countries from that time down to the outbreak of the war are here set forth, by one who participated in the history. Mr. Lanessan's book is far from being adequate to the subject but it furnishes enough personal information and criticism and comment to make its reading desirable for the historian of contemporary Europe.

CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN.

Parliamentary Reminiscences and Reflections, 1868 to 1885. By the Rt. Hon. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I., LL.D., D.C.L. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1917. Pp. xii, 344.)

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON was of the House of Commons from 1868 to 1906. As son of the Duke of Abercorn, at one time lord-lieutenant of Ireland, he was of the governing class, a fact which accounts for

the early age at which a place was found for him in the Disraeli administration of 1874-1880. He was then appointed under-secretary for India, with Salisbury as his chief. In 1878-1880 he was vice-president of the committee of council, practically minister for education. In the short-lived Conservative administration of 1885-1886 he was first lord of the admiralty. He resumed this office when the Unionist administration was formed in 1886, and held it until the Liberals came into power in 1892. From 1895 to 1903, when he retired from the cabinet, he was Secretary for India.

Only the years from 1868 to 1885 are covered by these reminiscences. But for half a dozen reasons they are likely to be of service to students of British politics of the two decades that preceded the realignment of parties after 1886, when Gladstone had committed the Liberal party to Home Rule for Ireland. In the opening pages in which Lord George Hamilton describes his victory over Labouchere at the Middlesex election of 1868, there is testimony to the value attached by local party wire-pullers and election agents to the son of a duke as parliamentary candidate. Hamilton was then only twenty-two. He was a junior ensign in the Coldstream Guards; and up to the time he was asked to contest Middlesex, he had given so little attention to current politics that he had "to set to work, regularly giving up so many hours a day, and obtaining from old members of Parliament—notably the late Earl of Mayo—the ins-and-outs of questions most attracting public interest". "After two or three weeks of this cramming", he adds, "I felt I could pass quite a decent examination in the catch political topics of the moment."

Much of the old corruption of the electoral system had still to be weeded out in 1868. The Corrupt Practices Act, which has been so effective in eliminating bribery and other corrupt practices at elections, was not passed until 1883; and Lord George Hamilton estimates that each vote at the Middlesex election of 1868 cost him about a sovereign. "A vast number of solicitors was engaged, at high fees, as district agents. All the flies, buses, and carriages available were hired, on the pretense of conveying voters to the poll; and travelling expenses from all parts of the kingdom were allowed."

Of Hamilton's reminiscences of the House of Commons and of the men who were his contemporaries in 1868-1885 the most interesting are those in which he records his opinions or his impressions of Disraeli, Gladstone, and W. H. Smith, and men of lesser importance such as Labouchere and Bradlaugh. His recollections of his parliamentary and social contact with Disraeli help to explain Disraeli's remarkable hold on the Tory aristocracy, after he had once been accepted by the Conservative party—after the Conservative party in the middle sixties had realized that he was the only popular leader in the party, and that only with a leader who could attract the middle and wage-earning classes could the Conservatives hope for a long tenure of

power. Disraeli, more than any other man who was ever a power in English political life, was adept at flattery; and Hamilton, consciously or unconsciously, gives some examples of Disraeli's art at its fulsomest.

Hamilton himself will not expect general agreement in his characterization of Gladstone, nor endorsement of all his remarks on Labouchere and Bradlaugh. But no one who is familiar with the House of Commons of 1886-1892, and with the personal history of the House from 1832 to 1886, will hesitate to endorse, without reservation, his splendid tribute to Smith, as leader of the House of Commons. Whitbread, Poulett Thompson, Cobden, Bright, and Chamberlain were all commercial men who greatly distinguished themselves in Parliament. But until Bonar Law, in December, 1916, became leader of the House of Commons, W. H. Smith was the only man, drawn directly from the ranks of commerce, who had held that office; and in the history of the House from 1832 to the Great War, there never was a more business-like, more conciliatory, more self-repressing, or more effective leader than Smith.

In writing of the House of Commons itself, Lord George Hamilton is most informing when he is recalling its methods of business prior to the reforms in procedure which have been made since 1882. He is interesting also when he describes the oratory of the House; and he raises a quite debatable question when he gives it as his considered judgment that fluency and dexterity of speech rank far too high in the public life of England. "They are", he adds, "very useful adjuncts to a man of courage, principle, and high ideals, but nothing more, and useless and dangerous when dissociated from such attributes."

Hamilton went to the India Office in 1874, and in detailing his work there as under-secretary, he has written one of the best descriptions of the work of the office, and of its organization, that has ever been embodied in English political memoirs. One other value in these reminiscences has yet to be mentioned. There is more than once in these pages the most sweeping and strongly-worded indictment that has been written or uttered of the Manchester school of politics by any man in the front rank of English political life. There has been a party truce in Parliament, in the constituencies, and in the press since the war began. The truce did not extend to Lord George Hamilton's study when he was at work on his reminiscences.

EDWARD PORRITT.

The Development of China. By KENNETH SCOTT LATOURETTE, formerly of the College of Yale in China. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. xi, 273.)

THE characteristic feature of this book is successful condensation. Having felt the need of a short treatise for use in college courses wherein only a few weeks can be devoted to China, the author has un-